

2-14-1858

Letter from Anna Clemson to Floride Clemson about Thomas Clemson, 1858 February 14

Anna Marie Calhoun Clemson

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The Home Feb. 14th 1858

MS. A. 9. 2. 14

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My darling daughter

Your father received your nicely written letter, & was delighted with it. He says it does you great credit & seems very proud of you, & is indeed you & he seem mutually so much pleased with each others letters, I wonder you do not write each other oftener, & hope you will do so for the future. Suppose you write him now & then, without waiting for a letter from him. I am sure he would be gratified, & would answer you punctually. He thinks you dont care for him, because you answer him sometimes so cropply, & I know it worries him at times. He has always been very proud of you, & thinks you will make a fine woman, if you will only correct some of your graver faults. I, your kind mother, think so much of family love & harmony, that I am anxious always to promote it in

every way I wish to give your father
& yourself the pleasure of mutually
loving each other, as father & daughter
should, & I really think if you will
do your part, he is ready to return
to the old days when you were his
pride, & favourite. You see I love you
well enough to give up some of your
weekly letters tho' they are my great
pleasure. I am always so anxious
to welcome, & aid, anything which
can make your father discover that
the only true happiness is to be found
in his family, & their affection, that I
tell you frankly the matter is in
your own hands. If you could
have heard him, when he got
your letter, & mine, telling persons
what a beautiful, sensible, letter his
daughter has written him, you would
never again think he did not love you
& if you act rightly, you may perhaps
make him happier, & gain an in-
fluence over him, which would be
for his, & all our good, & which I am
sure you would never abuse. Now
I tell you also, your letter to him was
well written, & composed, & did you
credit. It proves you only need to
take pains, in order to excel in
letter writing but for all that

darling, write me always the old
scratchy letters, from the heart &
on the impulse of the moment, that
I may see my daughter in the undress
of her mind — Remember this does
prevent your however learning to
spell, is well that even to me you
never make a mistake in that
important letter virtue.

Every thing is covered with snow, &
looks wintry, & perhaps we may yet
fill the ice house — It will be a
dreadful business if we do not, & I
don't like to think of an iceless summer
here with no cellar & no nothing.

Until the birds came your father & I
went into Washington at least twice
a week!!! He has got so used to
gadding, that he has gone to day
on horseback to Mr Calverts, but I
for my part, am not yet spoiled, &
prefer the quiet of home, tho' I never
refuse, when your father asks me
to go, from a sense of duty.

I have
made a good many visits & my
old friends welcome me in such a
flattering manner, that I might
well have my head turned, & become
more "conceited", than even you think
me now, did I believe all they say, but
tho' gratified at their kind remembrance
I take such things for what they are worth.

When you send the brilliant put my stocking
in² as otherwise I shall have one new
pair when the others are worn out.

We have all been very well tho just
at present your father is suffering again
with his old complaint — Nina has a
cold & did not sleep well last night &
my right eye is inflamed & worries
me, for you know I am always fright-
ened when anything is the matter
with those faithful servants, my
eyes. I think I have taken cold in it
& am using your grandmother's remedy
rose water for it — but none of our
ailments are serious, & Nina is very
gay to day, & until Babette took
her away, would not let me write a
word. — Her mind develops every
day, & she becomes more & more interesting.

As I have just written Calhoun, whenever
I ask what I shall tell him & you, she always
answers, "give her a sweet kiss, & tell her I
love her more than tongue can tell."

Your father did not mean to insinuate
the spelt Philadelphia, but only that she
pronounced it with great earnestness. The
other would be too smart even for her.

Your father joins me in love to all. I hope
your aunt B. is getting on as comfortably
as she can & that your aunt North has
recovered. — Babette & Mr. Dant send
remembrance. Your ever devoted
mother Anna G. Benson